

# Haywood County “Toeprints”

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Vol. #1 Issue #7 (Subject: **SPECIAL EDITION** \*\*\* DENR Public Hearing - Quarry Expansion - FOCUS!)

[www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net)

## What’s Happening?

This is a **SPECIAL EDITION** of Toeprints...

It has been brought to my attention that the **N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources** (DENR) has made the decision to hold a Public Hearing on the application for a permit for Harrison Construction Company to modify an existing surface mining permit to add land to the permitted area. The time, date, and place for the **Public Hearing** has not been designated at this time.

The purpose of this **SPECIAL EDITION** Issue is to Focus the efforts and thoughts of those citizens that wish to express concerns at the **Public Hearing**.

## Focus!

DENR is required by law that a permit can only be denied for the following specific reasons (and no other)...

Focus on those! (Underlined portions of the Statute).

THE MINING ACT OF 1971, ARTICLE 7, 74-46. Title.

(d) The **Department may deny the permit** upon finding:

1. That any requirement of this Article or any rule promulgated hereunder will be violated by the proposed operation;
2. That **the operation will have unduly adverse effects on potable groundwater supplies, wildlife, or fresh water, estuarine, or marine fisheries;**
3. That **the operation will violate standards of air quality, surface water quality, or groundwater quality** that have been promulgated by the Department;
4. That **the operation will constitute a direct and substantial physical hazard to public health and safety or to a neighboring dwelling house, school, church, hospital, commercial or industrial building, public road or other public property,** excluding matters relating to use of a public road;
5. That **the operation will have a significantly adverse effect on the purposes of a publicly owned park, forest or recreation area;**
6. That **previous experience with similar operations indicates a substantial possibility that the operation will result in** substantial deposits of sediment in stream beds or lakes, **landslides**, or acid water pollution; ...

There are (at least) three (3) factors that are significant in terms of the statutes that affect the six (6) family’s that were notified by DENR:

- Michael Rogers has a spring head that is located four (4) feet from the designated property boundary that Harrison Construction Company is requesting expansion. That spring head **supplies water** for him and other three families. Blasting in the vicinity of the spring head could **disrupt and alter the flow of water** for that spring head, leaving Michael Rogers and the three families **without water**.
- Three (3) families have initiated legal action against Harrison Construction Company based on **health issues**. This came to light at the first meeting of concerned citizens after receipt of the DENR notice. It would behoove DENR to thoroughly investigate the merit of these lawsuits.
- **Landslides!** A **landslide** triggered this permit modification - “the **slide** sent a 600-foot slab of rock crashing down at the Waynesville rock quarry, which dislodged 480,000 tons of earth and buried a drilling rig.” [re: SMN]. The requested expanded area to repair this **slide** means removing material from the existing ridge line (i.e. changing the ridge line) and altering the terrain on the slope of the mountain above residents homes. Heavy rains could cause **movement of the slope** towards residents homes. Without adequate testing of what lies under the ground on that side of the slope, it is possible to have another occurrence of the **Slow-Moving Landslide** at Hunters Crossing, a **landslide** that is still moving, that is within spitting distance of the affected residences. [re: [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net) , NC Geological Survey, Heather Gregory: Investigation of a **Slow-Moving Landslide**: Hunters Crossing Subdivision, Waynesville, NC.]

These three (3) issues ought to be enough to give DENR pause in granting permit approval until each has been investigated more thoroughly.

This is a **Public Hearing**. Any and all citizens that have **any** concerns, be it cracked basements, noise, air and water quality concerns, declining property values, children playing each week at the soccer field park adjacent to the asphalt plant emitting fumes, etc., etc., etc., are invited and urged to speak at the **Public Hearing**. **This is your only chance to voice your concerns! None are too minor to express.**

Contact and coordinate with Michael Rogers (452-0779) or Cheryl Gunter at (452-3530) to arrange to speak. Next meeting at Grandview Lodge is Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm.

There will be a County Commission meeting Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30p at the County Courthouse. There is a Public Comment session at the beginning of each meeting.

Monroe A. Miller Jr., Haywood County Taxpayer  
19 Big Spruce Lane, Waynesville, NC 28786